

Amendments to the claims:

1. (currently amended) A golf bag comprising:  
a generally tubular body attached at one end thereof to a top member and at the other end thereof to a bottom member;  
a shoulder strap having an upper end located near said top member and having a lower end located intermediate said top and bottom members; and  
a mechanism for urging said shoulder strap into a retracted position and for allowing movement of said shoulder strap from said retracted position into an extended position; and  
said mechanism including an elastic cord connected to said upper end of said shoulder strap.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) The golf bag of claim 2~~1~~, wherein said mechanism further comprises an anchor for connecting said elastic cord to said bottom member.

4. (original) The golf bag of claim 3, wherein said mechanism further comprises a ring for connecting said elastic cord to an extension on said shoulder strap upper end.

5. (original) The golf bag of claim 4, wherein said extension on said shoulder strap upper end extends through said ring and is anchored to said top member.

6. (original) The golf bag of claim 5, wherein said top member has an opening formed therein and wherein said extension on said shoulder strap upper end passes through said opening

7. (original) The golf bag of claim 6, wherein said anchor is releasable so that said elastic cord may be released from said anchor and said mechanism may be deactivated.

8. (original) The golf bag of claim 7, wherein said anchor comprises a pair of strips with overlapping end portions that are releasably held together.

9. (original) The golf bag of claim 8, further comprising releasable fastener means on the overlapping end portions of said strips.

10. (currently amended) In a golf bag having a generally tubular body attached at one end thereof to a top member and at the other end thereof to a bottom member, the improvement comprising:

a shoulder strap having an upper end located near said top member and having a lower end located intermediate said top and bottom members; and

resilient means for urging said shoulder strap into a retracted position and for allowing movement of said shoulder strap from said retracted position into an extended position; and

said resilient means including an elastic cord connected to said upper end of said shoulder strap.

11. (canceled).

12. (currently amended) The improvement of claim ~~11~~10, further comprising:

an anchor connecting said elastic cord to said bottom member; and

a ring connecting said elastic cord to an extension on said upper end of said shoulder strap.

13. (original) A golf bag comprising:

a generally tubular body attached at one end thereof to a top member and at the other end thereof to a bottom member;

a shoulder strap having an upper end located near said top member and having a lower end located intermediate said top and bottom members;

a mechanism for urging said shoulder strap into a retracted position and for allowing movement of said shoulder strap from said retracted position into an extended position;

said mechanism including an elastic cord connected to said upper end of said shoulder strap, an anchor connecting said elastic cord to said bottom member, and a ring connecting said elastic cord to an extension on said shoulder strap upper end;

said extension of said shoulder strap upper end extending through said ring and being anchored to said top member;

said top member having an opening formed therein and said extension on said shoulder strap upper end passing through said opening; and

said anchor being releasable so that said elastic cord may be released from said anchor and said mechanism may be deactivated.